

SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1946.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Prideaux Selby. O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. R. K. Dunning, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. C.G.A. Rudd. C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Assistant.

Mr. David French.

Clerical Staff.

Miss D. Mills.

Mr. Stanley Bryant Brook.



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to submit herewith an abridged Annual Report for the year 1946, which has been unfortunately delayed owing to the lamented death of my predecessor in Office, Dr. P. G. Selby in the early part of the year.

As I was not present during any part of the year under review I have necessarily had to confine the Report strictly to Statistical details which are available in the Health Office.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has compiled the Section on the Sanitary Circumstances of the area.

W. H. Crichton.

Colonel. I.M.S. (retd.)

Medical Officer of Health.



# 1 Statistics and Social Conditions.

## (a) General.

Area	70,000 acres	
Population - Mid year estimate	17,640	( 16,600 )
Rateable Value.	£ 68,416	(£68,577 )
Sum represented by Penny Rate.	£ 278	(£ 293 )

## (b) Births.

### i Live Births.

	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	187	180	367	( 299 )
Illegitimate	12	9	21	( 26 )

### ii Still Births.

Legitimate	4	4	8	( 9 )
Illegitimate	-	-	-	( 2 )

iii Birth Rate 21.9 per thousand of estimated population (19.6)

## (c) Deaths.

### i Total Deaths from all Causes.

	Males	Females	Total	
	124	95	219	( 196 )

### ii Death Rate 12.4 per thousand.

iii Deaths of Infants under one year 18 ( 9 )

### iv Infant Mortality Rates

Legitimate	46.3	(23.4 )
Illegitimate	47.6	(38.5 )

### v Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	6	2	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Cancer	16	16	32
Diabetes	-	2	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	12	9	21
Heart Disease	48	32	80
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	2	2

Figures in brackets refer to the preceding year.





## Causes of Deaths (continued)

	Male	Female	Total
Bronchitis	7	5	12
Pneumonia	8	4	12
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach	3	-	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1	1
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other Digestive Diseases	-	2	2
Nephritis	4	-	4
Premature Birth	2	2	4
Congenital Malformations Birth and Injury Infant Diseases	6	4	10
Suicide	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
Other violent causes	-	2	2
All other causes	8	9	17
	124	95	219

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## General Provision of Health Services.

None under the administration of the Swale Rural District Council.

Facilities available as follows :-

### (a) Hospitals.

Hollingbourne Rural District Small Pox Hospital.  
Keycol Hill Hospital for Infectious Disease.  
Keycol Hill Tuberculosis Sanatorium.  
Kent County Council Hospitals (General)  
Other Hospitals, general and special under the  
administration of the County or Private Hospitals.

### (b) Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Services provided in the area by the Kent County Council.

### (c) Tuberculosis Clinics.

The Clinic provided by the Kent County Council at Faversham.

### (d) School Clinics.

Provided by the Kent County Council.

### (e) Laboratory Facilities

County Laboratory at Maidstone.

### (f) Ambulance Facilities

Infectious cases - Ambulance attached to Keycol Hill Hospital.  
Non-infectious cases and accident cases - Ambulances provided  
by the Sittingbourne and Milton Joint Ambulance Committee and  
the St. John Ambulance Brigades in Faversham, Teynham and  
Sittingbourne.





(a) Notifications.

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year.

	Cases Notified	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	29	25	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Pneumonia	13	-	12
Puerperal Fever	3	3	-
Erysipelas	3	2	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-
Dysentery Sonne	5	1	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
	57	35	12

(b) Age Group Distribution.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	C.S.M.	Dysentery	Sonne	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Totals
0 - 5	6	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	43	29	82
5 - 10	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	13	88
10 - 15	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	14
15 - 20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20 - 45	1	-	4	1	3	-	1	1	1	3	-	14
over 45	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
												210



(c) Tuberculosis.

- i The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register increased from 90 to 97 by the end of the year of which 62 were pulmonary and 35 non-pulmonary
- ii The age distribution of deaths and new cases notified was as follows :-

		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5.		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15		-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 20		1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 45		3	3	-	2	2	-	-	-
over 45		2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
		7	5	2	4	5	-	-	-

(d) Diphtheria Immunisation.

This is carried out privately by Medical Practitioners who by arrangement notify the numbers immunised by them every quarter. The number of children reported to have been immunised during 1946 was as follows :-

<u>Age.</u>		
1 year		100
2 years		39
3 "		14
4 "		5
5 - 9		50
10 -14		15
		<hr/>
		223
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## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

### 1 Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The rural district is well served by water mains of the Mid Kent Water Company, the Sittingbourne Water Company, the Rainham Water Company, the Faversham Water Company and also some vested in the Local Authority who take bulk supplies from the Sittingbourne and Rainham Water Companies. There are however three portions of the area which, having no main supply, have to rely on well water and do suffer some shortage. These areas are Luddenham, Courtenay Road, Dunkirk and Rhode Common; in the case of Luddenham the Council have prepared a scheme for the provision of main water. The parishes of Newington, Lynsted, Teynham, Boughton, and Oare have sewers available and the Council have prepared schemes for Iwade and Conyer; public enquiries have been held on these schemes and the approval of the Ministry of Health obtained.

The Council undertakes the emptying of cesspools free of charge four times annually in all the rest of the area.

House refuse is collected throughout the district by direct labour with the exception of the parishes of Teynham, Lynsted, Buckland, Stone and Norton, where it is carried out by contract.

### Insoections.

During the year the following visits were made :-

Public Health	503
Revisits Public Health	758
Housing	8
Housing Survey	336
Interviews	84
Milk & Dairies	336
Food Premises	109
Bakehouses	63
Factories	5
Hop Pickers Camps	17
Infectious Disease	141
Council (Applications)	176
Council House (Change of Tenancy)	7
Vans etc.	7
Rat Destruction	37
Re Building Licences	421





and as a result of these visits the following Notices were served

### Public Health Statutory.

Statutory Notices were served in respect of 8 premises, with the result that 5 were complied with and some work started on the other 3. These notices covered a variety of work, but the main defects were insufficient water supplies and absence of sinks and proper drainage.

### Informal Notices.

A total of 153 Notices were served including 7 under the Milk and Dairy Regulations and 4 under the Factory Acts and of this total 132 were complied with.

## 11. Housing.

Owing largely to neglect during the war years and the present extreme difficulties with labour and materials there are a considerable number of houses in the District which need repair and improvement.

The Council are tackling the problem of providing new houses on a large scale but it will be a number of years before the schemes reach fruition and much benefit is felt from this source.

The Rural Housing Survey has not progressed as well as hoped for through inadequate staffing but it is hoped that some improvement will be effected in the near future.

## 111 Inspection and Supervision of Food.

A total of 63 visits was made during the year to food premises apart from bakehouses and refreshment rooms, and the following food was surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :-

590	lbs.	beef	Heated and decomposed
243	lbs.	mutton	" " "
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.	pork	" " "
41	lbs.	beef	Bruised
64	lbs.	beef	Tuberculosis.
2 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.	sheep's liver	Distomatosis
1	cwt.	rolled oats	Tainted
11	jars	sprats	Decomposed
11 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.	cheese	"



IV Administration of Parts 1 and 8 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Factories and Outworkers.

There are 102 factories and workshops on the register and informal notices in respect of 4 premises were served and complied with. In addition extra sanitary accommodation was provided at 1 factory bakehouse.

There are no outworkers in the Council's area.

R. K. Dunning.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

